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Please respond to
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To T3@LIST.TETN.NET

cc

bcc

Subject [TEA-L] T3 Announcements

Hello everyone,
Here are the announcements regarding T3 this month.

Let me know if I can assist you with anything.

Thanks,
Katie

TEA Evaluation Surveys

Thank you for continuing to complete the TEA T3 Evaluation Surveys. Please remember, questionnaires are provided for students, parents, teachers and administrators, and must be completed by May 31, 2011.

These surveys will become part of your evaluation. Once the surveys have been completed, TEA will aggregate the information and send you the URL to access your results. You should receive the URL to your results by June 15, 2011.

Sixth Quarter Progress Reports and Evaluation Reports

All submitted Q6 progress reports and evaluation reports are in the process of being reviewed and filed. It has been exciting to learn about the progress and impact that the ARRA funding is having on your schools. Thank you for all the links to pictures, videos, lessons, professional development, and success stories, as well as describing your challenges and how TEA can assist you in the future.

We will notify grantees via email if we have follow up questions or concerns with your reporting. If progress reports contained answers that were left blank or provided no details, they will be sent back for further information. Please keep this in mind when answering next quarter's progress reports.

If you have failed to submit your fifth quarter progress report by the April 10th, 2011 deadline, please do so at this time. Eligibility of grantees to receive future grants, including continuation grants, from TEA could be impacted by noncompliance.

Please submit completed Progress Reports and Evaluation reports to T3@tea.state.tx.us.

Low Draw Downs of ARRA Grant Funds--Important Information

One of ARRA's guiding principles is that grant funds are to be spent quickly to save and create jobs. Furthermore, unexpended ARRA grant funds with a grant end date of September 30, 2011 will lapse in less than a year. Through its expenditure reporting (ER) system, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) monitors the rate at which grantees are drawing down their ARRA funds. TEA considers grantees as

having low draw downs if they have expended less than 5% of a grant award per month since the NOGA start date. In this second and final year of ARRA funding, it is even more crucial that grantees review their planned use of funds in relation to the grant end date. If your organization has incurred expenditures but has not requested a draw down through ER, please submit those expenditures as soon as possible through ER and plan to regularly submit future expenditures. It is important that TEA and Texas schools publicly demonstrate that ARRA funds are being expended in accordance with congressional intent and applicable cash management guidelines.

ARRA Reporting

Keep up with the latest on ARRA Stimulus funding here:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4570>. Remember that the uses of the ARRA Title II D funds should focus on reaching the Target Tech level on the Texas Campus and Teacher STaR Charts <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/starchart>.

Amendments Reminder

Now is a good time for grantees to consider taking a critical look at your budgets to ensure all grant funds are spent by September 30, 2011. This is the closing date for Target Tech in Texas (T3) grant. Please submit any amendments in a timely manner to ensure all funds will be spent. *The last day to submit an amendment to TEA is 90 days before the ending date of the grant.* If you wait until the last date to amend and you want to make equipment purchases, you will need to show there will be significant impact and use of that equipment during the grant period, or the amendment may not be approved. It is not uncommon for these later amendments to be disapproved for this reason. If you do amend, please remember the 25% minimum funding you need to ensure will be spent on professional development.

For speedier processing of amendments:

Fax a signed Schedule 1 – General Information; Schedule 3 – Purpose of Amendment and any other affected program or budget pages to Discretionary Grants at 512-463-9811. Call 512-463-9269 if you have trouble with your fax getting through and you will be given an alternate number to use. Be sure to use strikethroughs for deleted/changed items and underline for new items.

Cancellation Notice: Connections 2 Project Share Grant Program

The Connections 2 Project Share grant program is authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT). However, the US Congress has eliminated EETT in the budget reductions for fiscal year 2011-2012. Due to loss of funding, the Texas Education Agency is cancelling the Connections 2 Project Share grant program.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the Connections Grant program manager, Kathy Ferguson, at (512) 463-9400. Thank you very much for your work on behalf of the students of Texas.

SXSWedu Spotlight Session Videos Are Now Available

The inaugural SXSWedu 2011 Conference was a huge success. Over 800 participants learned how Project Share is changing the way Texas educators collaborate with one another, access professional development, and impact their students' learning both in and out of the classroom.

Each day during the 3-day conference, a Spotlight Session presented the latest information about innovative efforts to bring digital learning resources into the classroom. Powerful keynote speeches by Robert Scott, Commissioner of Education, and Anita Givens, Associate Commissioner of Standards and Programs, as well as an engaging panel of Texas superintendents moderated by Evan Smith of *The Texas Tribune* are now available on the Project Share website www.projectsharetexas.org. As an added bonus, viewers will enjoy an inspiring student panel preceding Commissioner Scott's remarks.